



FILE COPY

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

February 28, 2000

**CERTIFIED MAIL**

P 148 982 193

Mr. Al Gillespie, Chief  
City of Yakima Fire Department  
401 North Front Street  
Yakima, WA 98901

Dear Chief Gillespie:

RE: Early Notice Letter Regarding the Release of Hazardous Substances on property located at 401 North Front Street, Yakima, WA, ERTS #C7819

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Under Chapter 70.105D Revised Code of Washington (RCW), upon receiving a report of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance that may pose a threat to human health or the environment, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) is required to conduct an Initial Investigation.

There was an Initial Investigation by Mr. Art McEwen and Mr. Ted Silvestri of the Yakima County Health Department. The investigators visited the City of Yakima Fire Station #1 on behalf of Ecology's Toxic Cleanup Program. They met with Lt. Hans Solie of the Yakima Fire Department. The investigation concerned the contaminated soil cleanup where a 500-gallon gasoline tank and a 500-gallon diesel tank had once been. These tanks had been excavated by Cecon Corporation (Tacoma) on November 18, 1997. As part of the investigation, they also reviewed an early 1999 (no date) Cecon report submittal for the tanks removal and soil cleanup.

The submittal shows there had been Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) soil contamination found that was 20,000 parts per million (ppm). The Model Toxics Cleanup Level (Method A) for TPH soil contamination is 200 ppm. The submittal also shows that while surface soil cleanup occurred at the site, complete subsurface cleanup was not possible because the soil contamination extended under the building foundation. The site where the two tanks were removed is now paved over. The two investigators recommended a Site Hazard Assessment (SHA) for the site.

Under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Ecology maintains a listing of known or suspected contaminated sites. It is Ecology's decision that the above-referenced property will be added to this information system. Ecology has determined also that a SHA described in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-320 will be required at this site. It is the policy of the Department of Ecology to work cooperatively with persons to accomplish prompt



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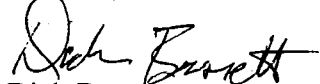
and effective site cleanups. Ecology prefers to achieve site cleanup cooperatively through independent cleanup actions (WAC 173-340-510). Cooperating with Ecology in planning or conducting remedial actions is not an admission of guilt or liability.

In proceeding with an independent cleanup, please be aware that there are requirements in state law which must be adhered to. In particular, WAC 173-340-300(4) which requires a report of independent actions. To the extent known, the report shall include: The identification and location of the hazardous substance; circumstances of the release; the discovery and remedial actions planned, completed, or underway. More requirements of independent cleanup actions are discussed in WAC 173-340-120(8)(b). Ecology will use the appropriate requirements contained throughout this chapter in its evaluation of the adequacy of any independent remedial actions performed. In the future Ecology may still need to conduct a more detailed inspection of this property, including testing for possible contamination. At that time we may assess the need for further action.

You are encouraged to contact Ecology for limited informal advice and assistance. For technical assistance you are advised to hire an engineering consultant with the appropriate environmental expertise. A copy of Chapter 70.105D RCW, the Model Toxics Control Act, and the implementing regulation Chapter 173-340 WAC, which details the requirements of the Act, is enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the requirements under the Model Toxics Control Act, please call me. My phone number is (509) 454-7839.

Sincerely,



Dick Bassett  
Site Manager/Initial Investigations  
Toxics Cleanup Program

Enc: Chapter 173-340 WAC  
Chapter 70.105D RCW

cc: Art McEwen, Yakima Health  
Ted Silvestri, Yakima Health  
Debra Kroon, CRO/TCP  
Michael Spencer, HQ/TCP